

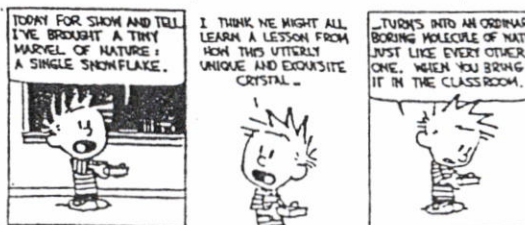
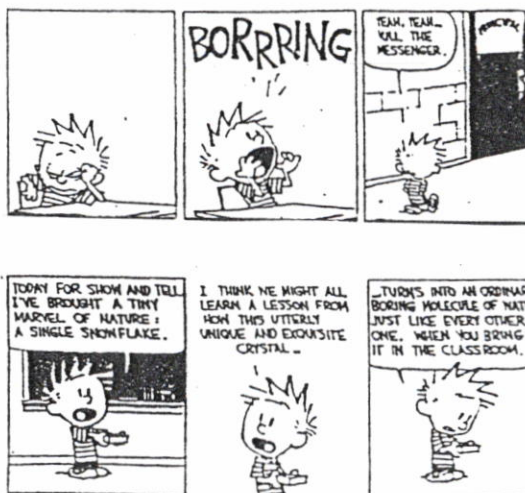
Almost every school has some sort of undergraduate research program set up. Volunteer to do research with professors who see things similarly to you. Make a research project out of dumpster art, or Food Not Bombs, or squatting, or even just trainhopping and hitchhiking over spring break. Turn your lifestyle into something that starts conversations and new trains of thought. Show people alternatives instead of just talking about them.

Honors Course

Here we graduate from the practical to the legendary. If you're embittered, remorseless, a good liar and hell-bent on wreaking havoc, you could cut to the chase: starting trouble. Arrive on campus the first day of classes dressed "nice" and acting as "normal" as possible. Go to the meetings of the Young Republicans, take advantage of how disinterested everyone else is, and get promoted to an important organizational position. In a few years you might be the one inside the Republican National Convention to cut the power out just as the new presidential candidate stands up to crow his acceptance speech. Or—try to get elected to student council, or, hell, student body president. Set everything up to orchestrate the perfect catastrophe, knowing that when the moment comes you will have no reservations about flipping the switch. Keep your intentions to yourself and your resolve pure and sharp, imagining your moment of triumph when the veil is thrown off. Have some "crazy" friends you visit sometimes to keep yourself centered and your plots integrated into a larger framework—lots of real student politician types do anyway (have crazy friends, that is!), it shouldn't arouse too much suspicion. When they think you've left the frat party for some social drinking with these friends, plot the total downfall of studies-as-usual, the university, capitalism itself. Hell, it *worked* in Strasbourg, the French university where the almost-successful revolution of May 1968 began*.



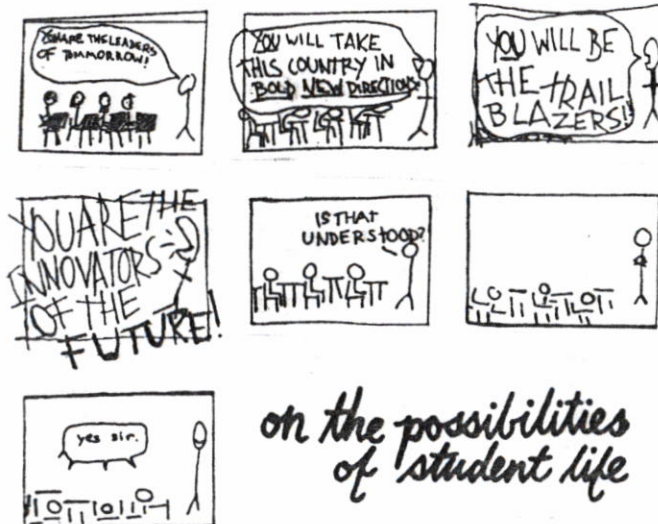
*[For those who don't know, a few students at Strasbourg took advantage of general apathy to get themselves elected to the Student Council, appropriated all student funds to publish an incendiary tract entitled *On the Poverty of Student Life*, which criticized the miserable role of the student in capitalist society, and distributed 10,000 of them on the first day of classes. The scandal stopped classes, started riots, and when the State repression kicked in the popular response was almost enough to topple the government. A mere prototype, of course, of what you've got in store for us—right?]



This pamphlet was not-so-peacefully assembled by the

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CrimethInc. for College Freshmen

CrimethInc. for college freshmen?! I thought CrimethInc. was all about dropping out of school, quitting your job, and living on the street eating dumpstered bagels as you fought the cops with slingshots and spraypaint!

That sounds suspiciously like the kind of daydream you have when you aren't satisfied with what you're doing with your life, and can't imagine what you could really do differently; and the problem with such daydreams is that they paint the desired life as something so different, so impossible, that it becomes an alibi for doing nothing. Revolutionary activity, exciting activity, fun activity is a lot closer than you may be ready to admit to yourself, even if you aren't an urban guerrilla.

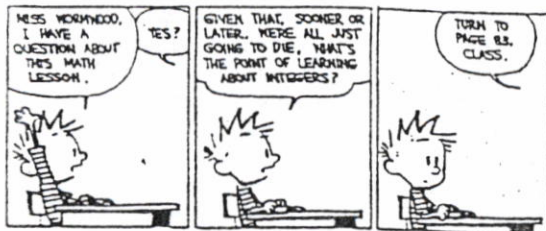
Many of us are students. Let's be straight about this. Whether we want to drop out but aren't yet sure enough of ourselves, or we really think the degree will enable us to do the things we want (without cashing in our privilege to stomp on others), or we have other reasons, we're enrolled, and putting a lot of energy into being college students. So it's problematic that when we think of being revolutionary, all our examples are so far from our own circumstances (beyond the middle class guilt of that old oxymoron, the "student activist"); after all, any image that makes us feel that "life is elsewhere" from where we are is ultimately our enemy. This little pamphlet is an attempt to offer some leads on revolutionary pursuits for the college student who doesn't just want to watch the revolution from afar while he completes his psychology homework.

Introductory Course

The first question is always how to get control of the resources around you, and the first one in question here is *yourself*. Lots of us in college are paralyzed by the fear of the unknown—whatever it is that awaits after college, which we can't quite imagine, which all the "responsible" people in our lives have never ceased telling us we have to be ready for, or else, and doing well in college is our one chance to "stay on track" for that. The alternative, of course, is unthinkable.

You know as well as I that this is a myth, but you have to get to a point where you can *feel* that knowledge, so you won't have to struggle with the constrictions of anxiety in your gut every time you want to do something that deviates even marginally from the aforementioned "track." Understand that even in the most generous light, college is nothing more than the place the bourgeoisie sends its sons

and daughters to figure out what they want out of life; most of them don't, and so they continue to feel lost and miserable, degree and fancy job or not. You have something on those unfortunates—you *have* an idea of what you want to do, however vague, even if it's just a blurry sense of what you think is right and wrong. You can be as miserable as they will be with their trophy wives and mid-life crises, if you focus on "achievement" in the limited sense their parents goad them to; or you can do something good for yourself, for others, maybe even for them, by concentrating some energy on the things you *know* matter. Remember, whatever you do right now will lay the precedent and framework for what you'll be doing later—should it be things you believe in, or things you do out of fear?



Once you've internalized this idea, it should be a little easier to skip class to go to Critical Mass, or to read books that are inspiring when you're "supposed" to be doing your Symbolic Logic assignment. Now you're ready for the second step—identifying and utilizing the other resources around you. What's in the library besides obscure commentary on the Canterbury Tales? Probably radical history and theory, books like *Homage to Catalonia* and *The Monkeywrench Gang*, even collections of anarchist publications from the past ninety years—seriously! And add to that movies, internet access (for establishing communication with other groups), instructional manuals for making radio broadcasting equipment...

Take this one step further—how can you extend the opportunities being a student offers you to others in the community not so privileged? For example, the cafeteria—if you can get in there (and hell, you may even have a meal card that gives you admittance two or three times a day!), you can bring out a lot of food for people who have to work a lot harder otherwise to get it. In my experience a good backpack-load can feed a few people for a couple days or more. Imagine the energy you could free up in the lives of local radicals, and the goodwill you could earn with them—or the resources you could provide to Food Not Bombs—or the hungry people you could offer something to besides a condescending handful of change. Extend this model to other campus resources: Sneak poor graffiti artists into the art building to use the screenprinting equipment. Become student director of the college radio station, and arrange to broadcast information that's not supposed to be on the airwaves—or extend the use of the sound equipment and record library to non-students.

Finally, the most valuable resource college life offers you is simply connection to the lives of others, especially people you would never interact

with otherwise. College is one of the last places you'll be brushing shoulders with people with totally different backgrounds and interests. Remember, in grade school you were all together, even kids from different economic backgrounds. By high school some had dropped out, others had been sent to

institutions or drug rehab or private schools. After this, you'll all be isolated in your various lines of work, even if yours is "activist" or adventurer. Take advantage of this chance to shake up the lives of people who wouldn't be thinking about sweatshops or sexism or passionate living otherwise. Don't be shy—see who you can meet in existing organizations, and, better, start your own dis-organizations. Get creative—during Rush, post fliers for a new sorority/fraternity... interrupt meetings of the Self-Knowledge Symposium to shout out more ambitious demands, then invite people to your own meetings, held around a campfire in the woods... set up a table in the center of campus to give out literature, Food Not Bombs bagels, and hang out with new friends.

Now you're ready to get serious.

Advanced Course

Chances are you're an upperclass(wo)man close to graduating, wishing you had been smarter freshman year, and by this time you've acclimated yourself to an organization on campus like Students for Peace and Justice, or the Sierra Club. These groups offer the perfect opportunity to pursue your secret agenda. At the first meeting of the year/semester, try to convince as many freshmen and sophomores as possible to run for student government. You especially want to convince them to run for positions like treasurer where they will have access to institutional funds. Also convince them to get jobs on campus—at the print shop, computer labs, libraries, bookstores, cafeterias, and campus media. These connections will make acquiring resources a much easier task.

Some colleges have groups of students that are responsible for picking the speakers to come give talks. Find out who these students are and how to get involved. Try to get many of your friends on these committees and bring speakers who have something to say. You may well even be able to bring in your friends to give talks, and arrange for them to be paid well (more money for the struggle!). Along the same lines, most schools have a "common reading" for incoming freshmen. Find out how to get on the advising committee for this list and show up to the first meeting with a list of "independent" readings. Not only will the committee be impressed that you showed interest, but they will note your motivation and initiative. Make them take you seriously.